

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Persson WO 00/72790. applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 1 requires, inter alia, a width of an absorbent core in a first distal end region that does not exceed 40 mm along any portion of the length of a the distal end region, the width of the absorbent core in the first distal end region does not exceed 30 mm along at least one half of the length of the first distal end region and wherein a ratio of the length of the first distal end region to the maximum width of the absorbent core in the first distal end region is less than 2. As acknowledged by the Patent Office, Persson discloses a width of the first distal end region having a range of from 15 to 40 mm and a length of the first distal end region of between 30 and 90. In view of the wide range of widths and lengths, there is clearly no recognition of the criticality of having a length to width ratio of less than 2. For example a length of 90 and a width of 15 results in a ratio of 4. This is clearly outside the claimed range of values in the present invention. Accordingly, Persson fails to disclose this expedient.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Persson. AS noted by the Patent Office, Persson fails to disclose or suggest a width of the second distal end of 70 mm. In addition, as noted above, Persson fails to disclose or fairly suggest the critical ratio of length of width of at least 2. The Patent Office has failed to offer any motivation that would direct one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Persson reference to provide a sanitary napkin having these expedients. In the absence of such motivation, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6, which is dependent from claim 1, is allowable over the art of record for the above reasons.

Serial No. 10/075,487

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: August 21, 2003